

## **ORDINANCE NO. 05-02**

### **ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE III. WATER CONSERVATION OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA INCLUDING SECTIONS 86-82 AND 86-85 THEREOF, TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND TO REPEAL ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES**

**THIS ORDINANCE** adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, Georgia (the "Board").

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to amend and update Chapter 86, "Article III Water Conservation" of the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County, Georgia to conform to the water conservation rules promulgated by the State of Georgia and to enable it to provide a comprehensive method to more efficiently implement water conservation measures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board, and it is hereby ordained by authority of same that Chapter 86, "Article III Water Conservation" of the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County, Georgia is hereby amended, as follows:

Section 1. Sections 86-82 and 86-85 of the Code of Ordinances of Columbia County, Georgia are repealed and shall be deleted in their entirety.

Section 2. New Sections to be designated as Sections 86-87 through 86-90 shall be inserted to read:

#### **Section 86-87 Outdoor water use schedule during non-drought periods**

- (1) Outdoor water use other than for exempted activities as set forth in Section 86-89 shall occur as follows:
  - a. Odd-numbered addresses: Outdoor water use is allowed on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.
  - b. Even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf course fairways: Outdoor water use is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

#### **Section 86-88 Outdoor water use schedule during declared drought response levels**

- (1) The Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the State of Georgia and/or Board of Commissioners are each authorized to make drought declarations and establish drought response levels.
- (2) During declared drought conditions, outdoor water use other than activities exempted in Section 86-89, shall occur only during scheduled hours on the scheduled days.
- (3) Declared drought response level one – Outdoor water use may occur on scheduled days between the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

- a. Scheduled days for odd-numbered addresses are Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.
  - b. Scheduled days for even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf fairways are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
  - c. Use of hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing is prohibited.
- (4) Declared drought response level two – Outdoor Water use may occur on scheduled days between the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.
- a. Scheduled days for odd-numbered addresses are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
  - b. Scheduled days for even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf course fairways are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
  - c. The following activities are prohibited:
    - i. Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health, safety or flushing.
    - ii. Washing hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways except when necessary for public health and safety.
- (5) Declared drought response level three – Outdoor water use may occur on the scheduled day between the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m.
- a. The scheduled day for odd numbered addresses is Sunday.
  - b. The scheduled day for even-numbered or unnumbered addresses and golf course fairways is Saturday.
  - c. The following activities are prohibited:
    - i. Using hydrants for any purpose other than firefighting, public health safety and flushing.
    - ii. Washing hard surfaces, such as streets, gutters, sidewalks and driveways except when necessary for public health and safety.
    - iii. Filling installed swimming pools except when necessary for health care or structural integrity.
    - iv. Washing vehicles, such as cars, boats, trailers, motorbikes, airplanes and golf carts.

- v. Washing building or structures except for immediate fire protection.
  - vi. Non-commercial fund-raisers, including car washes.
  - vii. Using water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls except when necessary to support aquatic life.
- (6) Declared drought response level four – No outdoor water use is allowed, other than for activities exempted in Section 86-89.

#### **Section 86-89 Exemptions**

- (1) The following established landscape water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this ordinance.
- a. Established landscapes using small capacity wells not requiring a water withdrawal permit for groundwater use from the Environmental Protection Division of the State of Georgia.
  - b. Use of recycled treated wastewater.
  - c. Irrigation of personal food gardens.
- (2) Newly (in place less than thirty days) installed landscapes are subject to the following regulations.
- a. Irrigation of newly installed landscapes is allowed any day of the week, but only during allowed hours provided in the drought response level in effect, and for a period of 30 days following installation except that no watering is allowed during Drought Response Level Four.
  - b. For new landscapes installed by licensed professionals, the commercial exemptions as set forth in subsection (4) hereof apply.
- (3) The following golf course outdoor water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules established by this ordinance.
- a. Golf courses using small capacity wells not requiring a water withdrawal permit for groundwater use from the Environmental Protection Division of the State of Georgia.
  - b. Use of recycled treated wastewater.
- (4) The following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this ordinance.

- a. Professional landscapers licensed by the County, golf course contractors, and sports turf landscapers during installation and for a period of 30 days following installation of landscape materials.
- b. Irrigation contractors during installation of system and as needed for proper maintenance and adjustments only.
- c. Sod producers
- d. Ornamental growers
- e. Fruit and vegetable growers
- f. Retail garden centers
- g. Hydro-seeding
- h. Power-washing
- i. Construction sites
- j. Producers of food and fiber
- k. Car washes
- l. Other activities essential to daily business, subject to the approval of the County.

### **Section 86-90 County regulation**

The County as a local water provider may from time to time implement additional outdoor water use restrictions, including but not limited to, the following: developing system integration and interconnection to reduce drought vulnerability, placing additional water use restrictions on specific commercial uses, determining eligibility for an exemption as set forth in Section 86-89, and placing additional restrictions on outdoor watering.

Section 3. Sections 86-83, 86-84 and 86-86 shall be renumbered as Sections 86-91, 86-92 and 86-93, respectively.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Section 5. Any Ordinance or any portion thereof which is in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent necessary to eliminate such conflict.